

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



62,33

619362

Four Silver Medals were awarded our
Gourds and Indian Corn this season.



Hints to Gourd Growers

Gourd Seed and Indian Corn Seed List.

Hints to Gourd and Indian Corn Exhibitors.

J. J. LaMONTAGNE & SON

340 Washington Street

Woburn, Massachusetts.

HINTS FOR GOURD GROWERS

Light, rich, warm soil with protection from harsh winds is preferable for gourds. If plants started early, in sunny window or in hotbed, receive a check, any gain by starting early will be lost. In no case does it pay to start more than four weeks before setting in permanent quarters.

Watch carefully after June 25th for cucumber beetles. Get busy right away when these pests show up. Dust after each shower with hydrated lime, or better with a proprietary dust. If no shower washes off the dust, it should be applied twice a week anyway to cover new growth. Get out early, while the dew is still on the plants and before the morning breeze starts up.

When danger of late frost is over, while killing weeds, hoe in a good pinch of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia near each hill to encourage growth. Get weeds under control before plants begin to run. If on trellis, keep trained up before shoots get too long.

When gourds begin to form, do not trample down and maul the vines to see how they are doing. You will get more gourds and just as fine colorings if they are left strictly alone.

Do not gather until after frost has touched the vines. The first light frost won't hurt them. When gathering, it is useless to save any which are not well matured. We usually discard about 25% fine-looking fruits for this reason. They positively will not keep long unless a shell has formed. Cut with stem and handle very carefully. Store in a warm, dry place, and do not shellac or wax until a month or more has passed.

PRICE LIST

1. Silver Medal Ornamental Gourd
 Seed Mixture pkt. 50c; oz. \$1.00
2. Regular Ornamental Gourd Seed Mixture.
 Good strain pkt. 35c; oz. 65c
3. Maranka, or Dolphin Gourd Seed.
 Newest and oddest. Wrinkled .. pkt. 50c
4. Miniature Lagenaria Gourd Seed Mixture.
 Small hard-shelled pkt. 50c
5. Silver Medal Lagenaria Gourd Seed.
 Mixture of 15 of the better kinds .. pkt. 50c
6. Cucurbita Ficifolia, Malabar Melon of
 Siam. Fine for trellis. Mottled melon-
 shaped fruit. Yellow-green, fig-like
 leaves pkt. 25c and 50c
7. Turks Turban Gourd Seed.
 Smallish and well colored. Hardest type
 to get fixed. We think our seed is extra
 fine pkt. 25c and 50c
8. Calabash Gourd Seed.
 Good-sized Lagenaria Gourd ... pkt. 25c
9. Hercules Club Gourd Seed pkt. 25c
10. Dipper Gourd Seed.
 Another desirable Lagenaria pkt. 25c
11. Luffa, or Dishcloth.
 Fibrous skeleton sometimes used
 as a sponge pkt. 25c
12. Apple-shaped Gourd Seed pkt. 25c
13. Nest Egg Gourd Seed pkt. 25c
14. Mock Orange Gourd Seed pkt. 25c
15. Pear-shaped Gourd Seed pkt. 25c
16. Spoon Gourd Seed pkt. 25c
17. Mixed Indian Corn Seed .. pkt. 25c and 50c

HINTS TO GOURD OR CORN EXHIBITORS

It is great fun to exhibit one's gourds. In the specimen classes, try to show only clean, sound, well-matured, and highly-colored speci-

mens. Be sure that all the gourds have retained their stems. Try to select good average-size gourds of the variety. Place them so as to show them to the best advantage.

In the display classes, try to remember that almost one-half of the total points allowed are for effect. Gourds vary so much in size and colorings that they are in many ways difficult to display effectively. Aim to make a beautiful picture of your display. One good plan is to arrange a central feature. Subordinate to it, place other gourds and accessories. Try to have the whole set-up hang together. Do not bring all the pretty material you may have grown and crowd it into the allotted space. A crowded display is seldom effective. Simplicity and good taste are the ideals to strive for.

Containers should be suitable—wooden mixing bowls of different shapes and sizes, Indian baskets, common fruit and vegetable containers stained with boiled oil and burnt senna or umber. Porcelain, pewter, and glass are beautiful for gourds when rightly selected and used.

Backgrounds may be Mexican straw matting, fabric of the coarser weaves, such as monk's cloth, corduroy, or colored burlap. Velvet or silk is very effective for gourds arranged in the more elaborate containers. Certain small flowers, dried grasses, or berried shrubs are sometimes used to get the desired effect.

Indian corn lends itself admirably to display purposes. It may be braided, shown in strings, or the loose ears can be placed in small groups to show the beautiful colorings. Indian baskets and old corn measures are excellent containers, while cobs and husks, as well as cornstalks and corn tassels, are effective additions. Dark backgrounds usually are best.